

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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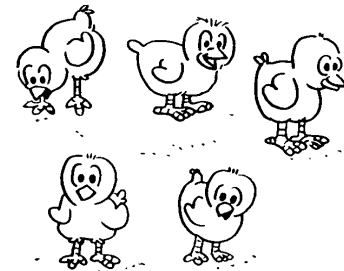
CHICKENS & EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 66 eggs during February 2003, of which 63 million were table eggs and 3 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 73.6 percent. The average number of layers on hand during February 2003 was 3,203,000. On March 1, 2003, 3.5 percent of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 24.5 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

United States egg production totaled 6.62 billion during February 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.63 billion table eggs and 985 million hatching eggs, of which 927 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,957 eggs, up 1 percent from Feb 2002. February 2003 contained 20 weekdays, one holiday and four Saturdays, equal to February 2002.

CONTENTS

Agricultural Prices
Chickens & Eggs
Farm Labor
Maryland Cash Rents



Eggs and Layers: February 2002 and 2003

Item	2002	2003	2003/2002
Eggs Produced During February	<i>.....Million.....</i>		<i>Percent</i>
U.S.	6,581	6,617	101
Maryland	65	66	102
Layers, Average Number During February	<i>.....Thousand.....</i>		
U.S.	337,991	338,190	100
Maryland	3,154	3,203	102
Eggs/100 Layers During February	<i>.....Number.....</i>		
U.S.	1,947	1,957	101
Maryland	2,061	2,061	100